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211400Z Dec 04

UNCLAS MANAMA 001909

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARPI BERNS, OES/ETC LEE, AND EB/TPP/ABT SINGH
USDA FOR FAS/BIG PASSINO
AMMAN FOR WHITTLESEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SENV ETRD EAGR EAID TBIO BA

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

REF: STATE 259661

Post contacted Engineer Zahwa Al Kuwari, Director of the Environment Assessment and Planning Directorate, General Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment, and Wildlife, to discuss reftel. Kuwari said Bahrain is not a party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and does not plan to become a member in the coming year. Furthermore, GOB representatives will not be attending the meeting in Montreal, Canada May - June 2005. When asked what if anything Bahrain is doing in terms of biosafety, Kuwari stated the GOB is not doing anything at this time as its priority is to strengthen compliance with existing conventions.

MONROE